

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9, 21-24, 27-29, and 31-34. The Examiner also allowed claims 10-16. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 8, 25, 26, and 30 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicants canceled claims 17-20 in a previous communication. Applicants thank the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims.

By the present Response, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Particularly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 21, and 27 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6, 25, and 30, respectively. As claim 6 previously depended from independent claim 1 via intervening dependent claim 5, Applicants have also amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants canceled claims 5, 6, 25, and 30 without prejudice. Additionally, Applicants amended claim 26 to correct the dependency of this claim in view of the cancellation of claim 25, and added new dependent claims 35-38, which are discussed in greater detail below. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-4, 7-16, 21-24, 26-29, and 31-38 will be pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

New Claims

New dependent claims 35-38 have been added by this Response. These new claims add no new matter and are fully supported throughout the specification. Furthermore, in view of the present cancellation of claims 5, 6, 25, and 30, no fees are believed due for the addition of claims 35-38 in this Response. These new claims are believed allowable for their dependency from a respective allowable independent claim,

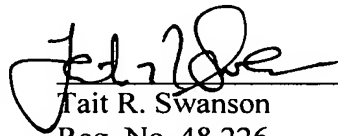
as well as by virtue of the subject matter separately recited by these dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent claims 35-38.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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